UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Watch the Regents Meeting of May 6, 2026

We are again catching up with the Regents, this time for their second-day meeting of May 6. The meeting began with public comments covering disabled students, complaints about ERs being well-above capacity, support for the AFSCME negotiations,* lack of budget information for student government, revisiting the issue of hiring undocumented students by UC, student affordability and basic needs including housing costs and childcare, revisiting the issue of departmental political statements, two thank-yous to Regent Sures for statements on antisemitism, and divestment. There was a brief AFSCME protest at the end of the public comment session.

Grad student Valadez spoke about federal cutbacks, advocacy for a second student regent, and made a veiled criticism of an unnamed Regent. (This *may* have been Sures for the same reason he received praise in public comments.) Undergrad student rep Hariharan spoke about federal cutbacks, disabled student funding, Native American students, a need for ICE warnings on campus, and support for union workers.

There was then a presentation about the research "landscape" which included reference to federal cutbacks and support for the proposed state bond for research. There was an emphasis on medical research, scientific patents, and commercialization of such research and patents. Following that presentation was one on campus energy systems referencing emissions reductions, decarbonization over twenty years, and UC-Santa Barbara's purchases of renewable electricity and a new heating and cooling system. Regent Makarechian wondered whether new developments in small nuclear power plants should be considered.

In the Finance and Capital Strategies Committee, some items were pulled off the consent calendar for more detailed discussion. These items included expenditure rates from the General Endowment Pool for UC usage and administrative purposes. Modified version of these items were approved although Milliken voted "no." Exactly what his concerns were was unclear. This episode seemed unusual. First, apparently controversial items were initially put on the consent calendar. Second, approval over opposition by the UC president - one newly appointed - would seem to be significant.

New student housing for UC-Santa Cruz sparked some controversy. Regent Makarechian, who has more knowledge of real estate development than many other regents, noted that with land costs for campus housing being zero, the proposed housing seemed expensive compared with the private sector (which has to deal with land costs). He also noted that the housing proposed was bare bones, with 3 in a room sharing a bathroom, unlike the private sector. Ultimately, he abstained from voting. UC-Santa Cruz spokespersons said the "geology" of the campus was more difficult than in the City of Santa Cruz. In contrast, a building for UC-San Francisco for hearing disorders was quickly approved.

Item F4 - suspension of STIP loans to the pension for a year - was approved without much discussion. Regent Cohen said that UC needed to have liquidity given the current budgetary pressures. The consultant/actuary noted that this suspension was not the first

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Faculty Join SB895 Rally to Save Science, Save Lives
- CA Research Funding Clears First Legislative Hurdle
- Trump Admin Drops Appeal to FA Lawsuit
- Fund Scientific Research in California
- CUCFA Newsletter: December 2025

Remaking the University

- Standing Up for the UC Means Standing Up Against Zionism (Guest Post) - 5/11/2026
- Liner Note 53. AI and the Public Good - 5/2/2026
- Liner Note 52. Fighting for an Interdiscipline: The Humanities' Future - 4/23/2026

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Topics

to occur and that going forward estimates of the calendar of pension funding would be made without assuming further STIP usage. This was another issue that seemed to merit more discussion than it got.

The final item was the UCOP budget. Makarechian asked about legal costs, given the current conflict with the feds. Were lawsuits aimed at particular campuses being handled at the systemwide or campus level? The answer he got was fuzzy. It was said that campus lawsuits that had systemwide implications would be handled at the systemwide level. But it was never clear which those were.

Regent Hernandez asked whether there was still funding for the Hawaiian Thirty-Meter Telescope (TMT). It was said by Nathan Brostrom that there was no cost at this time (although some funding had been set aside in the past), and that planning had shifted to the Canary Islands location. It was unclear if this shift was now a definite decision or just an option - but it sounded more like the former than the latter. If that is so, it is a Big Deal for the project. But this was again a matter than seemed to float by with little attention.

Academic and Student Affairs featured a review of UC's student programs in Washington, DC and Sacramento.

Public Engagement and Development had a report on state government relations. Note that this session occurred before the governor's May Revise budget proposal. There was discussion of the proposed research bond and repeated notes that the campaign in the legislature to put the bond on the ballot was being undertaken in cooperation with UAW. There is also support for a housing bond that might provide some student housing support. It was noted that UC can advocate for bills to put things on the ballot. But if they actually make it to the ballot, UC as an institution cannot provide support.

The May 6 meeting ended with full board approval of the various committee reports and tributes to various outgoing regents and representatives.

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As always, we preserve recording of Regents meetings since the Regents have no policy on retention and their YouTube recordings are unlisted. You can find the May 6 meeting at:

https://archive.org/details/regents-finance-and-capital-strategies-academic-and-student-affairs-5-6-2026.

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*In a prior post last Tuesday, we noted that an AFSCME spokesperson indicated that UC wanted to push AFSCME-covered staff out of Kaiser and into UC providers.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UC Regents

Straws in the Wind - Part 344

From the Daily Princetonian: *Princeton will not have to pay any net investment income tax on returns from its $36.4 billion endowment, a University investment official said at a private event in January, after a recent expansion of its undergraduate financial aid program left the University below a 3,000 tuition-paying student threshold to qualify for taxation. Experts had*

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Watch the Regents Meeting of May 6, 2026

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Watch the Regents Meeting of May 5, 2026

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projected that the new tax on wealthy university endowments — enacted under H.R. 1, the omnibus tax and spending bill passed by congressional Republicans in July 2025 — would have cost Princeton roughly $180 million annually. The 8 percent endowment tax was predicted to impose one of the country's highest university tax burdens on Princeton, which currently enrolls 9,100 undergraduate and graduate students. According to University President Christopher Eisgruber '83, recent widespread budget cuts have been driven by decreased long-term endowment projections — growth estimates that likely would have been further eroded if the University were required to pay the tax.

...In July, amid several Trump administration attacks on higher education, Congress set the 8 percent tax rate for universities with over $2 million in endowment funds per student and over 3,000 tuition-paying students. At around $3.9 million in endowment funds per student, Princeton was expected to be subject to the tax, and many of its peer institutions are still likely to pay hundreds of millions annually.

...Emeritus Professor of Economics Burton Malkiel GS '64, who has publicly written about how universities benefit from the illiquid assets of endowments, called the University's endowment tax strategy a "brilliant response to a punitive and discriminatory tax." The expansion of financial aid "increases our income and produces much-needed student support," he wrote to the 'Prince.' ...

Full story at https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2026/05/princeton-news-adpol-university-spared-endowment-tax-financial-aid-millions-princo.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, Princeton U, tuition

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 159

From the Harvard Crimson: *A group of former Harvard athletes who are now physicians and scientists pitched the University's sports medicine team last summer on disclosing the risk of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy to contact-sport athletes. Nearly a year later, the group says they have heard nothing back. At least seven former Harvard football players have been diagnosed with CTE, a degenerative brain disease caused by repeated head impacts that can only be confirmed via autopsy, according to Christopher J. Nowinski '00, the co-founder and CEO of the Concussion & CTE Foundation. The most recent diagnosis, Jim Higgins '70, came earlier this year.*

The other publicly identified cases are James M. Peccerillo '78, Toby Brundage III '95, Mike T. Brooks '01, Dick Clasby '54, Hank Keohane '60, and Christopher J. Eitzmann '99, a former Harvard football captain who went on to play for the New England Patriots. The youngest of the seven died in his 30s. Nowinski, a former Harvard defensive lineman, said he first raised the issue with Harvard Athletics Director Erin McDermott at an Ivy League Football Association dinner in January 2025...

Nowinski said communication from Harvard Athletics stopped after the presentation. "We could not get emails returned," he said, "so we suspect they did not go forward with our proposal to provide education on CTE to Harvard athletes." ...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/5/6/cte-training-unanswered/.

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Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, Harvard, health care

Friday, May 15, 2026

Watch the Regents Meeting of May 5, 2026

We're catching up with the Regents' May 5 meeting, the first of two days. The meeting began with public comments. Topics included complaints about an ICE official who spoke at a UCLA law school program, a UC-Davis family center (??? speaker was unclear), anti-Israel, resident doctor negotiations, termination of the UC-Davis equestrian team, ICE notifications, divestment, divestment from Apollo, disabled student programs, names of protesters shared with federal government, revisiting UC hiring of undocumented students, AFSCME negotiations, and a proposal for a second student regent.

The Health Services Committee heard a report on the strategic plan for UC Health. It was noted that ERs are getting more patients due to federal cutbacks.

At the full Board, Chair Riley noted that this would be her last meeting as chair and reflected on UC's contributions. She welcomed newly-appointed Regents. UC President Milliken took note of the significant legal expenses incurred as a result of the conflict with the federal government. He referenced public concerns about higher ed as described in the recent Yale report. Problems mentioned were complicated pricing, campus climate, and opaque admissions standards. He suggested a need for more transparency with regard to pricing and admissions. With regard to the latter, it's not clear what that would mean as long as subjective judgments are made. Faculty representative Palazoglu discussed the need for a new Master Plan and wanted the Academic Senate to be involved in developing such a Plan. There was then a tribute to selected UC and UCLA alumni. Finally, there was a celebration of UCLA women's basketball and a presentation by coach Cori Close followed by brief remarks by Chancellor Frenk.

The Governance Committee proposed the appointment of a new director for the Berkeley National Lab and the full Board reconvened to ratify the appointment.

The Investments Committee hear a brief report by CFO Bachhar covering the first 9 months of the fiscal year in which returns looked good thanks to the stock market. A disturbance at the meeting halted the session and the room was cleared. Bachhar cited the usual uncertainties: war, inflation, AI. It was noted during the discussion that the Blue and Gold Pool, which is a simple indexed fund, i.e., no stock picking, nothing but equities and fixed income, performed very well at very low administrative cost. It was suggested that maybe other funds managed by the CFO's office might be run that way.

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As always, we preserve recordings of the Regents sessions since the Regents have no policy on retention and their YouTube recordings are unlisted. The sessions described above are at:

https://archive.org/details/regents-may-5-2026.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, health care, Master Plan, UC Regents, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 343

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Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

From the Yale Daily News: *Yale postdoctoral researchers opted to unionize in a landslide vote... The University's postdoctoral associates and research fellows cast votes... to decide whether they would join UNITE HERE Local 33. The union, which represents Yale's graduate and professional student workers, ratified its first contract with the University in 2023. In [the] vote, 859 postdoctoral researchers voted in favor of joining the union and 31 voted against, according to union spokesperson Ian Dunn. Yale has around 1,200 postdoctoral researchers in total, according to Yale's Office for Postdoctoral Affairs.*

The vote means that Local 33 will represent postdoctoral researchers in negotiations to seek a contract with Yale. A page on the union's website under the heading "Yale Postdoctoral Scholars United" lists concerns regarding pay, job security and the handling of grievances.

...The vote aligns Yale with some peer universities. In April 2024, the National Labor Relations Board recognized a union including postdoctoral researchers at Harvard, according to the union's website. Princeton postdoctoral researchers voted to be represented by a union the following month...

Full story at https://yaledailynews.com/articles/yale-postdoctoral-researchers-vote-overwhelmingly-to-unionize.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Yale

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 158

From the Harvard Crimson: *The Faculty of Arts and Science plans to increase Ph.D. admissions next year, partially reversing steep reductions imposed across its divisions this academic cycle, FAS Dean Hopi E. Hoekstra announced... Hoekstra said... that the FAS is "on track" to admit more graduate students next year after cutting Ph.D. admissions by roughly half across its divisions last fall — one of the school's most dramatic cost-saving measures as it worked to close a looming $365 million structural deficit.*

The planned increase marks the latest retreat from a policy that drew swift backlash from faculty, especially in the Sciences Division, and generated months of tension within the FAS's

senior leadership...

Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/5/6/fas-increases-phd-slots/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Thursday, May 14, 2026

News while traveling

Yours truly is currently in transit. However, two items are in the news today:

1) The AFSCME strike is now off. A settlement was reached at the last minute. (It is not unusual for negotiations to conclude at deadlines.)

From the LA Times:

A strike that would have disrupted operations affecting thousands of University of California hospital patients and students was averted at the 11th hour Thursday morning after UC and leaders of 40,000 union members reached a tentative agreement, winning raises and capped healthcare costs for workers...

2) From the NY Times:

The University of California, Los Angeles, should toughen its approach to combating antisemitism, an internal committee recommended Thursday, after the Trump administration and many students and faculty members said it had not done enough to curb harassment of Jews on campus...

Some of the recommendations in Thursday's report fall beyond U.C.L.A.'s authority. For example, the group suggested that the University of California as a whole consider using the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism....

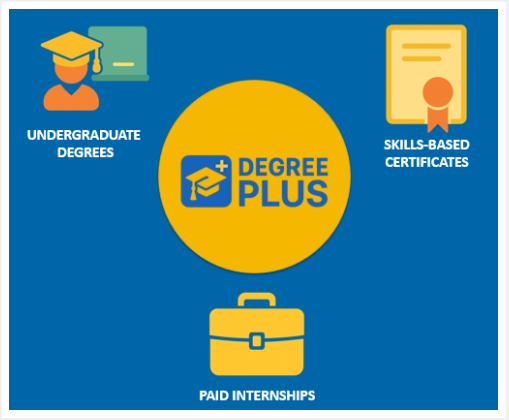
Dozens of American universities have adopted the definition, including Columbia and Harvard last year. In March, the University of California, Berkeley, agreed as a part of a legal settlement that it would continue to consider the definition and its examples "whenever investigating or assessing claims of discrimination or harassment against Jews or Israeli individuals." The president of the University of California system, James B. Milliken, did not immediately commit to embracing the definition across its 10 campuses. But Mr. Milliken hailed U.C.L.A.'s efforts as "important and impressive" and said, "Antisemitism is antithetical to the core values of the University of California, and it is essential that we continue to demonstrate this principle through our policies and actions." ...

Full story at https://www.nytimes.com/2026/05/14/us/ucla-considers-new-tactics-to-combat-antisemitism.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 9:03 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, Milliken, strikes, UC, UCLA

Degree+



From a May 1 news release by the governor's office: *Governor Gavin Newsom... highlighted the efforts of the University of California (UC) system to better prepare undergraduate students for a rapidly changing workforce influenced by tech-driven economic change. The UC Degree Plus Program, launched in 2025, is a two-year pilot program currently available at no additional cost to UC Santa Barbara (UCSB) and UC San Diego (UCSD) students, combining a UC bachelor's degree with skills-based certificates and paid internships to strengthen workforce readiness, connect students with employers, and improve career outcomes in an increasingly competitive labor market. The UC Degree Plus program will serve 480 students across both campuses from 2025-2027 and is already in high demand...*

Full release at https://www.gov.ca.gov/2026/05/01/new-uc-degree-plus-pilot-program-shows-demand-for-career-readiness-training/.

More detail on the program at:

https://www.ucop.edu/academic-affairs/initiatives/degree-plus.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: governor, politics, UC, UC-San Diego, UC-Santa Barbara

Straws in the Wind - Part 342

From the Brown Daily Herald: *In a United States Senate Appropriations Committee hearing..., Alabama Sen. Katie Britt attacked Brown's security preparedness for the Dec. 13 shooting. Britt stated that Brown violated the Clery Act — which the University is currently under investigation for — which stipulates requirements for security and safety on university campuses. Britt is a Republican senator from Alabama, the home state of Ella Cook '28, who was killed in the shooting.*

..."Public reporting from local stations and student news outlets has made it clear to me that the murder of Ella Cook, her fellow classmate and the wounding of nine others were entirely preventable," Britt said in the hearing. "They were the predictable result of more than a decade of ideological degradation and the vilification of police and law enforcement at Brown."

"Brown did nothing," Britt repeated throughout her statements. University spokesperson Brian Clark wrote in a statement to The Herald that "there should be no ambiguity about Brown University's enduring commitment to maintaining a safe and secure campus." ...

Full story at https://www.browndailyherald.com/article/2026/04/alabama-sen-katie-britt-attacks-brown-s-preparedness-response-to-dec-13-shooting.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Brown University, politics

Last Cash Before Revise

The governor will present his May Revise budget proposal later today. As noted in a prior blog posting, yours truly will be on an airplane at the time so any analysis of the proposal will be delayed. However, we do have the state controller's cash report through April, the big month for income tax receipts. And the story of above-forecast revenues continued.

Revenues for the current fiscal year through April, i.e., through the first ten months, were $12.1 billion above what the governor projected in January, and $23.7 billion above what was projected at the start of the fiscal year.

The major contributor to both excesses over projections was the personal income tax, so stock market gains. Both projections got the sales tax about right, so the underlying economy was performing about at levels estimated.

Finally, the state is sitting on $87 billion in unused borrowable resources, so there is lots of internal liquidity.

We'll see how the governor and legislature react to these developments shortly.

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The state controller's report through April is at:

https://www.sco.ca.gov/Files-ARD/CASH/April2026StatementofGeneralFundCashReceiptsandDisbursements.pdf.

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Note: There is one dark spot with regard to revenue and that is from the cap-and-trade program that provides revenue for various programs, notably the high-speed rail. Revenues from cap-and-trade are falling below projections. The rail project is proving embarrassing for the governor's non-campaign for president and threats to revenues for it don't help. See:

https://lao.ca.gov/handouts/resources/2026/Amendments-to-Cap-and-Invest-050626.pdf.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: controller, governor, State Budget

Close

We noted in a prior posting that an item proposing a salary increase for women's basketball coach Cori Close had been removed from the May 5-6 agenda of the Regents.* That seemed odd, given the team's recent record.

However, the Daily Bruin now reports that Close has just signed a contract extension:

Cori Close spent the past two seasons picking up national coaching honors and championship rings – accolades that will now secure her spot in Westwood for the next four seasons. UCLA women's basketball coach Cori Close signed a new contract through the 2029-30 season, the team announced in a press release Tuesday afternoon. The news comes just over a month after the 2025 Naismith Women's College Coach of the

Year led the Bruins to their first national championship in the NCAA era...

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/05/12/coach-cori-close-signs-new-contract-continuing-fours-up-for-next-four-years.

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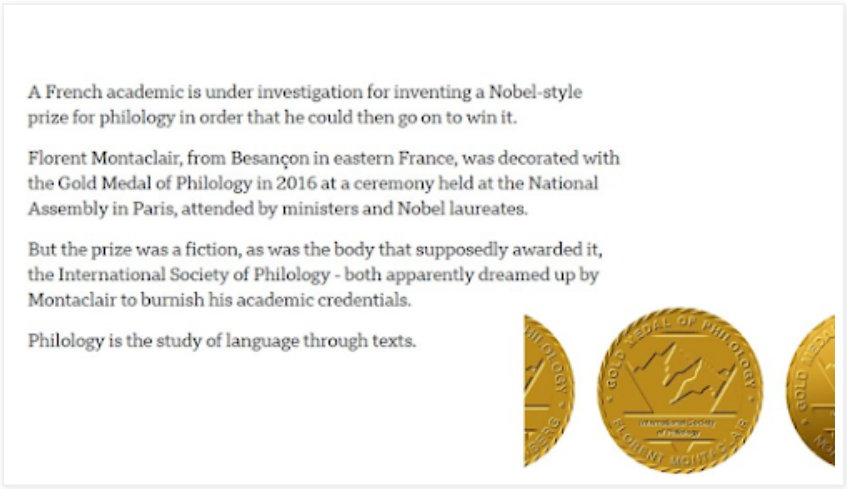
*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/05/how-related.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: athletics, UCLA

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Is there a prize for academic creativity?



A French academic is under investigation for inventing a Nobel-style prize for philology in order that he could then go on to win it.

Florent Montaclair, from Besançon in eastern France, was decorated with the Gold Medal of Philology in 2016 at a ceremony held at the National Assembly in Paris, attended by ministers and Nobel laureates.

But the prize was a fiction, as was the body that supposedly awarded it, the International Society of Philology - both apparently dreamed up by Montaclair to burnish his academic credentials.

Philology is the study of language through texts.

Full story at: https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4g8pwjdp6do.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: miscellaneous

Straws in the Wind - Part 341 (Let's just play Pomp & Circumstance and go home)

From Inside Higher Ed: *The Rutgers University at New Brunswick School of Engineering canceled a pro-Palestinian alumnus as its convocation speaker after, the university says, some graduating students complained about his social media posts. In March, the school's website published an "Alumni Spotlight" interview with Rami Elghandour, chairman and chief executive officer of biotechnology company Arcellx. The piece touted his social justice and humanitarian advocacy and noted he was an executive producer of The Voice of Hind Rajab, an Oscar-nominated film about a Gazan girl killed by Israeli forces in the recent war.*

Elghandour was set to speak at the school's May 15 convocation, but the school canceled. In a statement to Inside Higher Ed, the university said the "School of Engineering was recently informed that some graduating students would not attend their graduation ceremony due to concerns about the invited speaker's social media posts, including one that shared an inflammatory claim." ...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/05/07/rutgers-disinvites-grad-speaker-after-he-criticizes-israel.

===

From the Jewish Journal: *When Georgetown Law School announced recently that Dr. Morton Schapiro, Professor and President Emeritus of Northwestern University, would be its commencement speaker, Interim Dean Joshua C. Teitelbaum noted that Schapiro is "highly informed about the challenges facing colleges and universities today," and that "there are few who can speak to it with as much clarity and insight as he can."*

...[But] in his Jewish Journal column, Schapiro has written about a range of subjects, including the need for hope and optimism and improving the public discourse. ...He has also expressed supportive views of Israel. That was a bridge too far for a group of law students... The outcry became loud enough that Schapiro could only imagine what was reserved for him on the day of the address. ...He felt he had little choice but to withdraw...

Full story at https://jewishjournal.com/commentary/columnist/editors-note/388524/georgetown-commencementspeaker-mort-schapiro-backs-out-after-firestorm-caused-by-his-jewish-journal-columns/.

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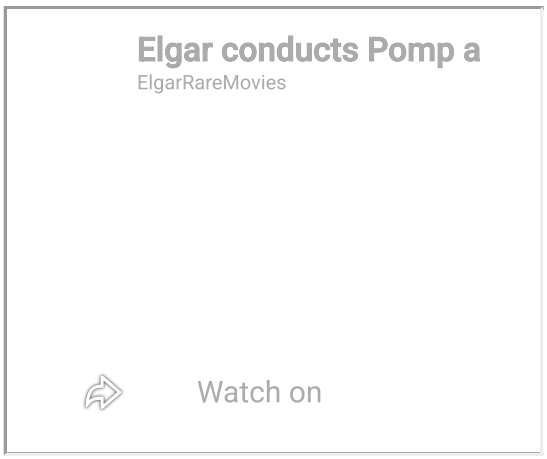


Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UrzApHZUUF0.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Georgetown, Rutgers

Stopped

From the LA Times: *The National Science Foundation suspended at least 18 research grants to UC Berkeley last month despite a court injunction restricting such suspensions, according to an attorney representing university scientists in a class-action lawsuit. The NSF declined to comment on the suspensions.*

The grants include at least one that the NSF had previously canceled and was compelled by a federal court order to restore, for a series of mixed-reality exhibits at the Lawrence Hall of Science showcasing Indigenous Ohlone knowledge about the natural world, said one of the project's leaders, Jedda Foreman...

The University of California is ramping up efforts to find alternative funding for its multibillion-dollar research enterprise as federal support becomes less reliable. On Monday [of last week], UC President James Milliken spoke alongside state Sen. Scott Wiener and United Auto Workers president Shawn Fain at a Sacramento rally in support of state legislation to create a $23-billion fund for scientific research...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2026-05-10/trump-administration-again-suspends-uc-berkeley-research-grants.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, politics, UC, UC-Berkeley

Paid Off

Remember last week's hacking into Canvas that caused an interruption in availability of Bruin Learn?

It turns out that Instructure, the supplier of Canvas, paid a ransom to get its data back, presumably thereby protecting all the students and faculty in the various universities that use Canvas. From Inside Higher Ed:

Instructure has paid a ransom to a gang of cybercriminals that have twice hacked the company's learning management system, Canvas, over the past week and a half. nstructure has paid a ransom to a gang of cybercriminals that have twice hacked the company's learning management system, Canvas, over the past week and a half. According to an update published by the education-technology company Monday night, the deal means that the hackers have returned the compromised data of some 275 million users across more than 8,800 institutions...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/tech-innovation/administrative-tech/2026/05/11/instructure-pays-ransom-canvas-hackers.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud, UCLA

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Is AFSCME being pushed out of Kaiser?

We will cover the Regents meetings of May 5-6 in a separate posting. But an AFSCME strike is now impending and there were spokespersons from the union at the May 6 public comments session of the Regents.

Of course, we don't know what is happening behind closed doors at negotiations between UC and AFSCME. But one of the AFSCME commenters suggested that UC is trying to push the 70% of AFSCME workers that now choose Kaiser as their health provider into plans that utilize UC providers.

See an excerpt from his comment below:

Or direct to https://ia903202.us.archive.org/32/items/regents-finance-and-capital-strategies-academic-and-student-affairs-5-6-2026/Kaiser%20to%20UC%20providers%20AFSCME%205-6-2026.mp4.

===
Note that if there is a UC push away from Kaiser regarding AFSCME-represented staff, the same might occur for other groups, actives and retired.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: health care, strikes, UC

Straws in the Wind - Part 340

From the LA Times: ...*Today's college students say that picking a major that's "AI-proof" feels like shooting at a moving target as they prepare for a job market that could be fundamentally different by the time they graduate. As a result, many are reconsidering their career paths. About 70% of college students see AI as a threat to their job prospects, according to a 2025 poll by the Institute of Politics at the Harvard Kennedy School, while recent Gallup polling found that U.S. workers are increasingly concerned about being replaced by new technologies. The uncertainty appears most concentrated among those pursuing degrees in technology and vocational areas of study, where students feel a need to develop expertise in AI but also fear being replaced by it.*

A recent Quinnipiac poll found that the vast majority of Americans believe it's "very" or "somewhat" important for college and university students to be taught how to use AI, as Gallup Workforce polling has found that AI is getting adopted in technology-related fields at higher rates. Meanwhile, students studying healthcare and natural sciences may be less affected by AI overhauls, Gallup found.

...A recent Gallup poll of Generation Z youths and adults ages 14 to 29 found increasing skepticism and concerns about AI. Although half of Gen Z adults use AI at least "weekly," and teenagers report higher use, many in this generation see drawbacks to the technology and worry about AI's effect on their cognitive abilities and job prospects. About half, 48%, of Gen Z workers say the risks of AI in the workforce outweigh the possible benefits.

Part of the challenge for college students is that the experts they would typically turn to for advice, such as advisors, professors and parents, don't have any answers...

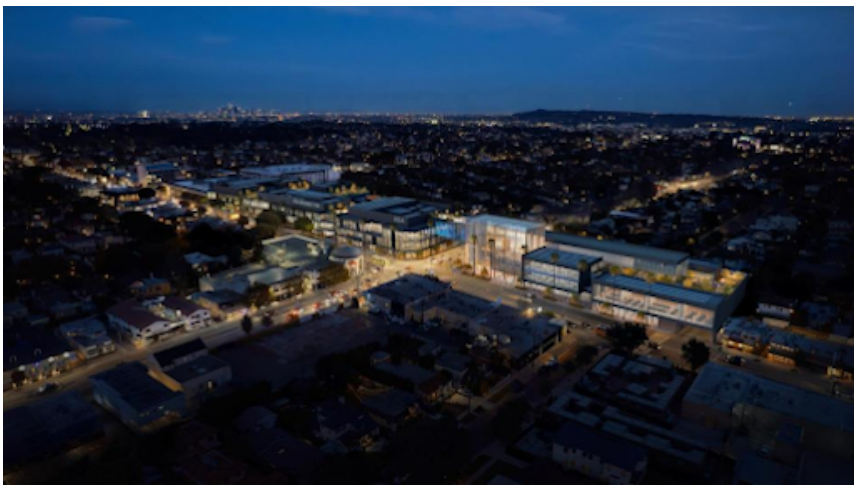
Full story at https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2026-05-05/college-students-are-in-search-of-ai-proof-majors.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Harvard

Former Westside Pavilion

Urbanize LA is running an article on the research facility UCLA is developing at the former Westside Pavilion with these images.



Source: https://la.urbanize.city/post/heres-closer-look-plans-ucla-research-park.

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The article also notes UCLA's purchase of the campus of a defunct Catholic College in Palos Verdes which - as far as yours truly knows - nobody has figured out yet what to do with. So no dramatic future images of that facility are available.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Monday, May 11, 2026

Celebrating Bond - Part 2

*In a prior post, we noted that UC is pushing for a state research bond that would make up for federal cutbacks.**

The campaign is underway. From a UCOP press release:

UC, State Senator Wiener, UAW host rally for California science to urge lawmakers to pass SB 895

May 4, 2026

SACRAMENTO – UC President James B. Milliken today joined California State Senator Scott Wiener and United Auto Workers President Shawn Fain to rally in support of California science and urge state lawmakers to pass SB 895, bipartisan legislation that would place a $23 billion bond to fund scientific research across California on the November 2026 ballot.

“California’s prosperity is inextricably connected to its investment in university research and discovery,” said President Milliken, who was joined at the rally by hundreds of UC researchers, faculty and staff. “SB 895 comes at a pivotal moment, providing a lifeline that delivers economic opportunity and life-saving medical care for our residents.”

If passed, SB 895 would help ensure that critical scientific research continues in California, strengthening the state’s resilience through investments in biomedical and health research, climate and environmental science, behavioral health, wildfire resilience and emerging technologies.

With 10 campuses, six academic health centers and administrative oversight of three national labs, UC employs more than 265,000 across the state and treats 2.5 million patients a year. For every $1 the State of California invests in UC, $21.04 in economic output is generated across the state. Last year, UC received the most U.S. utility patents of any university, helping keep the nation at the forefront of scientific discovery and global competitiveness.

But today, UC faces one of the most severe threats to its research enterprise in its 158-year history. Significant reductions and disruptions in federal scientific funding could hinder the state’s ability to remain a global leader in technology, innovation and multidisciplinary research, impacting jobs, health care and the economy in California.

If passed by voters, the California Science and Health Research Bond Act would help fund modernization of research facilities, expansion of laboratory and clinical capacity, and improvements to public health infrastructure. These investments are projected to support a wide variety of jobs, from construction and skilled trades, to scientists, technicians and healthcare researchers, while strengthening the pipeline of future talent.

Research funding generates jobs, fuels California’s economy

California’s leadership in biotechnology, life sciences and medical innovation has been a cornerstone of its economic success. The state’s universities, hospitals and research institutions provide the infrastructure needed for clinical trials, product development and advanced manufacturing. The investments made by SB 895 will support thousands of students and researchers at California universities with jobs in growing industries.

“The science bond is one of the best investments we can make in California’s future,” said Senator Wiener. “Scientific research is a pillar of California’s economy and prosperity and one of California’s greatest contributions to the world. It fuels our world-class universities. Our life

sciences sector supports over a million jobs and billions in economic output. To millions of families and loved ones struggling with untreatable illnesses, scientific research represents hope. SB 895 will power those dreams and that success for another generation — putting power back in the hands of Californians to steer the next generation of scientific advances while the federal government pulls back."

SB 895 tackles complex and interconnected challenges

SB 895 would also provide dedicated funding for research into the health impacts of wildfires, including air quality, respiratory illness and community resilience, while strengthening California's capacity to detect and respond to future pandemics through improved laboratory networks and rapid response capabilities.

"This measure could help you or someone you love by continuing research in groundbreaking therapies for cancer, heart disease, diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and more," said UAW Region 6 Director Mike Miller. UAW represents approximately 60,000 workers across the University of California system in a wide range of academic and non-academic roles, including academic researchers, graduate teaching assistants, graduate student researchers, postdoctoral scholars, and professionals in student services, advising, research and public service. "As the federal government slashes research funding across the country, we are proud to come together with Senator Wiener, Assemblymember Solache and the University of California to ensure that California meets the moment."

Return on investment and pharmaceutical discounts

Historically, public investment in research has delivered strong returns by driving economic growth, boosting tax revenues and improving residents' health. SB 895 builds on that track record by allowing the state to recapture a share of licensing and royalty revenues from inventions and technologies developed with public funding. SB 895 also helps to make health care more accessible by ensuring California residents receive discounts for pharmaceuticals developed through this research.

Support for SB 895 is bipartisan and broad-based, from researchers and physicians to legislators throughout the state. The bill is sponsored by UAW Region 6 and Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD). It is jointly authored by Senators Sasha Renée Pérez and Aisha Wahab, and principal co-authored by Assemblymembers José Luis Solache, Jr., Mike Gipson, Jacqui Irwin, Al Muratsuchi and Darshana Patel, Ph.D. Thirty-seven members of the State Legislature are co-authoring the bill to date.

Source: https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/uc-state-senator-wiener-uaw-host-rally-california-science-urge-lawmakers-pass-sb-895.

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*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/04/celebrating-bond.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: UCOP

Straws in the Wind - Part 339

From Washington Monthly: *It's increasingly apparent that public support for the nation's colleges and universities has eroded over the past few years. While some of the disillusionment*

reflects the impact of conservative attacks on higher education, including Donald Trump's campaign against prominent institutions, much of it stems from growing concerns about affordability, tuition sticker shock, student loan debt, and nagging doubts about whether a college degree is still a reliable ticket to a successful career. One recent survey found that the share of parents who said a postsecondary degree program was their top choice for their child's post-high school plans fell from 74 percent in 2019 to 58 percent in 2025. That result is not an outlier. Survey after survey confirms that Americans have become increasingly skeptical about the value of a college degree. ("Skepticism" may even be an understatement; resentment, especially toward elite colleges, may be the more accurate characterization.)

But here's the odd thing: despite overwhelming public anger at the perceived unaffordability of higher education, the average net cost of college has barely budged over at least the past decade. It's actually fallen a bit. What might explain this disconnect? One theory is that the opaque and occasionally deceptive ways colleges advertise their prices leads to public misperception about college costs. A 2022 Government Accountability Office study found that 91 percent of colleges understate or don't include the net price families pay in the offer letters sent to students. Such incomplete or misleading information often leads to "uninformed and costly decisions, such as enrolling in an unaffordable college," according to the GAO. The confusion has been aggravated by a policy, common across the vast majority of four-year schools, of discounting high "sticker costs" by strategically offering generous institutional financial aid through "merit scholarships."

This "high tuition-high aid" model results in a situation where published tuition prices bear little relation to what many students end up paying for college. Congress has recognized the problem, and, as this magazine has reported, several bills have been introduced in both the House and the Senate that would require greater clarity and simplicity in college offer letters...

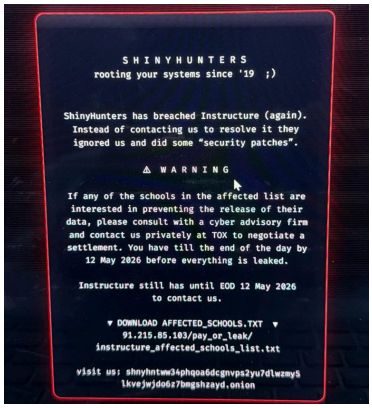
Full story at https://washingtonmonthly.com/2026/05/05/higher-ed-affordability-college-costs-financial-aid-confusion/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, tuition

The Hacking - Part 2

From the Daily Bruin: *UCLA restored access to Bruin Learn on Saturday evening, two days after a cyberattack took down the learning platform. ShinyHunters, a criminal extortion group, breached Canvas, which hosts BruinLearn, Thursday afternoon. It threatened in a message posted to the website that it would release universities' data if Canvas' parent company, Instructure, did not negotiate a settlement...*


SHINYHUNTERS
rooting your systems since '19 ;)
ShinyHunters has breached Instructure (again).
Instead of contacting us to resolve it they
ignored us and did some "security patches".
⚠ WARNING
If any of the schools in the affected list are
interested in preventing the release of their
data, please consult with a cyber advisory firm
and contact us privately at TOX to negotiate a
settlement. You have till the end of the day by
12 May 2026 before everything is leaked.
Instructure still has until EOD 12 May 2026
to contact us.
▼ DOWNLOAD AFFECTED_SCHOOLS.TXT ▼
91.215.85.103/pay_or_leak/
instructure_affected_schools_list.txt
visit us: shnyhntww34phqoa6dcgnvps2yu7dlwzmy5
lkvejwjdo6z7bmgshzayd.onion

Full story at https://dailybruin.com/2026/05/09/ucla-restores-access-to-bruin-learn-2-days-after-cyberattack.

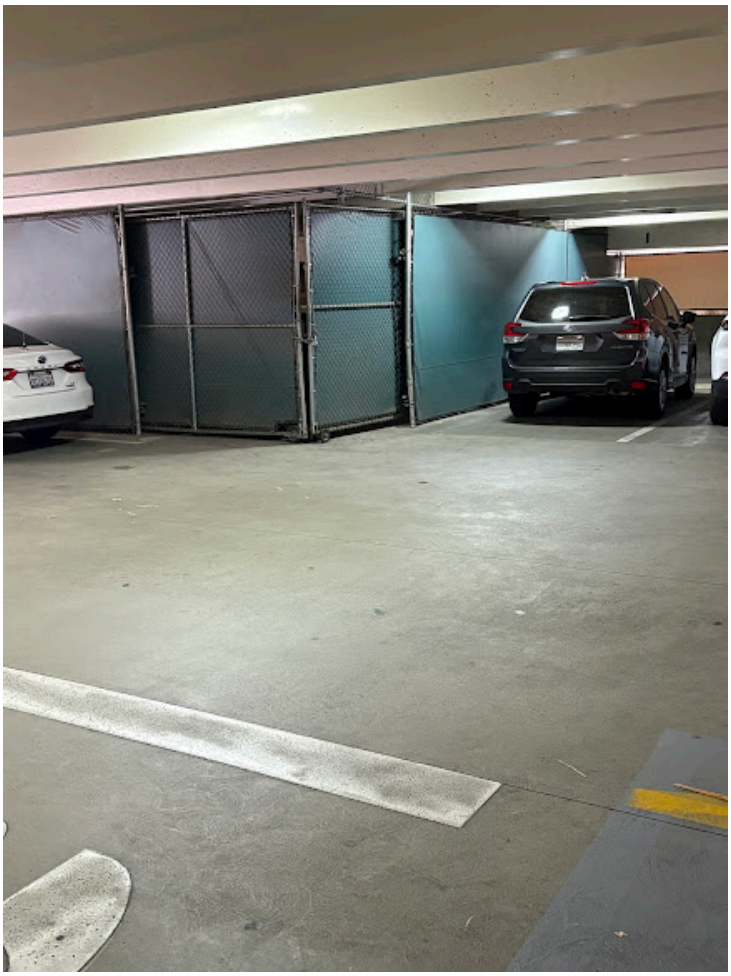
There doesn't seem to have been a public assessment of issues that arise from being dependent on an outside vendor whose size alone invites cyberattacks.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

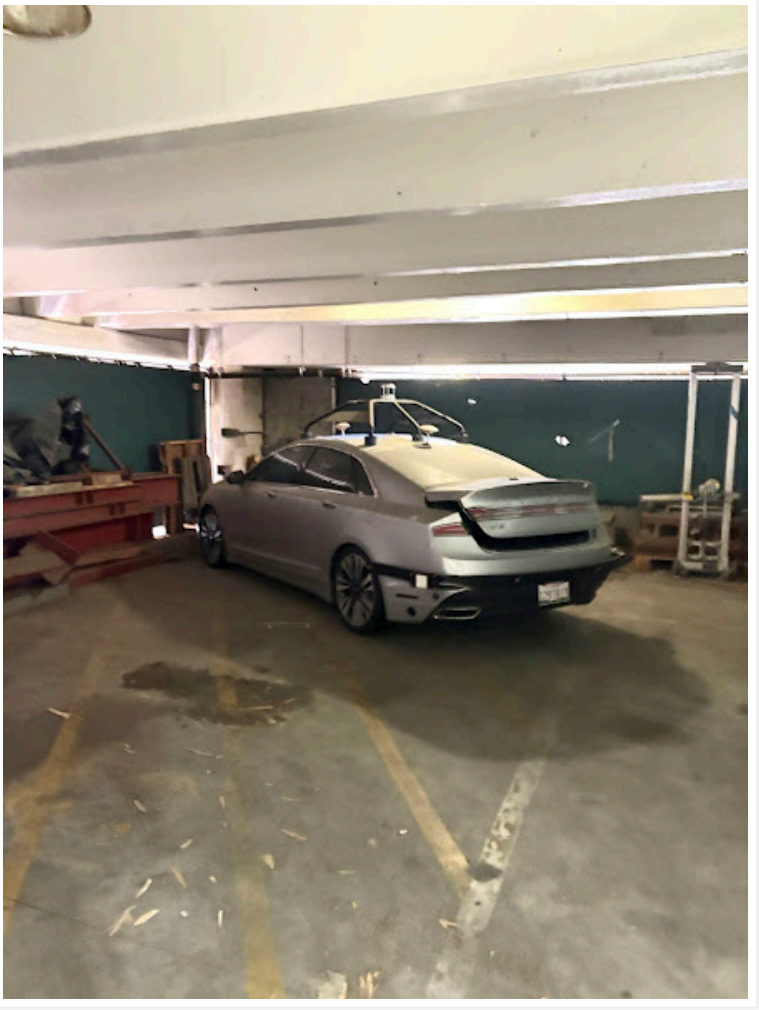
Labels: email fraud, UCLA

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Mystery Car



Yours truly often parks in structure 9 for UCLA med center appointments. On the ground floor, as shown above, there is a closed-off area with no clue as to what's inside. But recently, the locked gate was open revealing what appears to be some kind of self-driving car, at least from the look of the gadgetry on top. See below:



Anyone know more? If it isn't a self-driving car, what is it and why is it there?

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: parking, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 338

From the Stanford Review: *Marriage Pact, Stanford's online matching platform, has released its aggregated data from the 2025–26 cycle, covering 4,177 submissions. Its annual questionnaire asks students about academic interests, professional ambitions, faith, preferences, and politics. Libertarian, Conservative, Republican, Apolitical, Independent, Democrat, Liberal, and Socialist are independent self-selected groupings. Throughout, groups are sorted from highest to lowest mean agreement.*

The 2025–26 results show a clear political shift to the right at Stanford. Students are notably more right-wing than they were five years ago, and right-wing students are both more ambitious and more optimistic about their ability to change the world than their left-wing or centrist peers.

From Fall 2020 to Fall 2025:

• The Right (Libertarians, Conservatives, and Republicans) nearly doubled, from 6.9% to 12.1% of the student body.

• Socialists and Communists were roughly cut in half, from 10.7% to 5.0%.

• The broader Left coalition (Communist, Socialist, Liberal, Democrat) declined only slightly, from 70.6% to 67.3%.

• The middle (Independent, Apolitical, Other) edged down from 22.4% to 20.7%...

Full story at https://stanfordreview.org/number-of-right-wing-students-at-stanford-nearly-doubles/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: politics, Stanford

Priorities

California State Assembly Democrats put out a document of priorities ahead of the governor's May Revise budget proposal that is scheduled to be unveiled May 14th.*

Just about everything is a priority, so what the priorities are is unclear, and there are no numbers attached. (Republicans in the Assembly don't have enough seats in that chamber - or the state Senate - to matter.)

The document does take note of the above-forecast revenues that have been coming in - and that we have previously posted about. Below is what they have to say about higher ed:

Supporting Higher Education

UC and CSU help power California's economy and are engines of social mobility. The California community college system provides critical workforce preparation and has consistently been growing since the pandemic. At a time when Trump is targeting our colleges and universities, Assembly Democrats want to hold the line on funding for all systems and our previous commitments to a higher education bond. This should be done with a mindset of serving as many California students as possible.

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*The full document is at https://abgt.assembly.ca.gov/system/files/2026-05/assembly-democrats-budget-road-map.pdf and the accompanying news release is at https://speaker.asmdc.org/press-releases/20260507-assembly-democrats-release-road-map-responsible-and-compassionate-budget.

Note: Yours truly will be on an airplane May 14th so reporting on the May Revise may be delayed.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: governor, legislature, politics, State Budget

Saturday, May 9, 2026

Changing times at the management school

From an interview in the Daily Bruin with Gareth James, the incoming dean of the Anderson School of Management: ...*It's a very challenging time for business schools in particular. Not only are there the challenges associated with topics that you raised in your question but while there's increasing demand for business education at the undergraduate..., there's some decline in interest in, for example, the MBA programs – which have been a mainstay for many business schools, including Anderson.*

We need to figure out in the long run – how do we provide a high-quality product to our students at a price point that the average individual can afford? Because obviously there's massive not just tuition costs associated with doing a full-time MBA, but the opportunity cost of giving up two years of employment to come back to school to do that program. So we have to ensure that when students do that, they get the best possible experience and end up with great jobs at the end and a great experience during that time period.

Then in higher education, there's somewhat related questions. Technological advances and changes in cultural norms over the last five years since COVID-19, that over the last 10 to 15 years overall – the student experience is very different than it used to be. When I first started teaching, you would have a lecture, and the vast majority of students would turn up for that lecture as long as it was a good instructor. These days, more and more of my colleagues are frustrated by the challenges of getting students to actually come into the classroom and experience the classes. As a father with two sons in college, I know they have some of the same challenges themselves. And the reality is that there are many more opportunities for students to learn now. There's a lot of high-quality video and related materials online. If faculty post their lectures online, often students would rather watch it at one and a half or two times speed than sit in the classroom.

As instructors, we have to ask ourselves: What is the value proposition that we're providing?

We have to be very careful to ensure that there's an added benefit beyond just sitting in front of a screen and watching that video. … That physical campus experience and the interactivity of the students on that campus is a real value proposition and differentiator that no online video can provide...

Full interview at https://dailybruin.com/2026/05/04/qa-incoming-dean-of-ucla-anderson-school-of-management-reflects-on-plans-future.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 337

From WGLT: *Illinois State University officials... acknowledged using external companies to perform custodial and grounds work on campus during the AFSCME strike, a claim that the union contends in a lawsuit is a violation of state law. ISU officials maintain they are in compliance with hiring and procurement laws. The AFSCME Council 31 has sued the university, alleging it has broken the state's Strikebreakers Act which states that "no person shall*

knowingly employ any professional strikebreaker in the place of an employee, whose work has ceased as a direct consequence of a lockout or strike."

...ISU spokesperson Chris Coplan... said the lawsuit seeks to "restrict the university's ability to utilize external companies performing custodial and grounds work on campus." He said the university's use of these companies is legal. "These external companies are not strikebreakers — they are well-established, local businesses that perform custodial and grounds work in and around our local community every day," Coplan said...

Full story at https://www.wglt.org/local-news/2026-04-24/isu-says-its-external-custodial-contractors-are-not-strikebreakers.

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From Inside Higher Ed: *On Thursday, U.S. District Judge Colleen McMahon found that the mass termination of more than 1,400 grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities was unconstitutional. In April 2025, NEH officials and staff from the Department of Government Efficiency canceled grants representing over $100 million in congressionally appropriated funds. The following month, the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), the American Historical Association and the Modern Language Association of America sued to reverse the terminations.*

In documents revealed during discovery of the summary judgment, DOGE officials admitted that they used ChatGPT to identify which grants were in violation of the president's anti-DEI executive orders. Grants containing words such as "history," "culture" and "identity" were flagged by AI as relating to DEI.

The judge ruled that DOGE officials violated the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights and the equal protection component of the Fifth Amendment and terminated the grants without any statutory authority to do so...

Full story at https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2026/05/07/federal-judge-restores-millions-neh-grants.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, diversity, Illinois State U, politics, strikes

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 157

From the Harvard Crimson: *The Harvard Kennedy School is weighing a visiting faculty program to expand intellectual diversity on campus as administrators explore new ways to address criticism that Harvard's faculty leans overwhelmingly liberal. The proposal, discussed with top-dollar donors at a Dean's Council meeting last October, would bring scholars to HKS for yearlong fellowships with the goal of retaining some as permanent faculty, according to Mark R. Wittcoff, a member of the Council's Leadership Circle.*

The idea has also surfaced in recommendations from a task force convened by HKS Dean Jeremy M. Weinstein to reimagine the school's leadership and academic priorities. Though not yet formalized, the initiative would align the Kennedy School with a broader University-wide push to expand "viewpoint diversity" among faculty. Over the past year, Harvard administrators have explored raising funds for new endowed professorships — which can cost roughly $10 million each — aimed at increasing ideological representation across schools and departments.

At the October meeting, Weinstein told donors the Kennedy School was working to build a more balanced professoriate, Wittcoff said. Weinstein raised the issue unprompted, according to Wittcoff, framing it as part of an effort to respond to public perceptions about the school. "He said, 'We're still being mischaracterized or misperceived as a liberal institution, we're trying hard to get a more balanced faculty, and we're doing it,'" Wittcoff said...

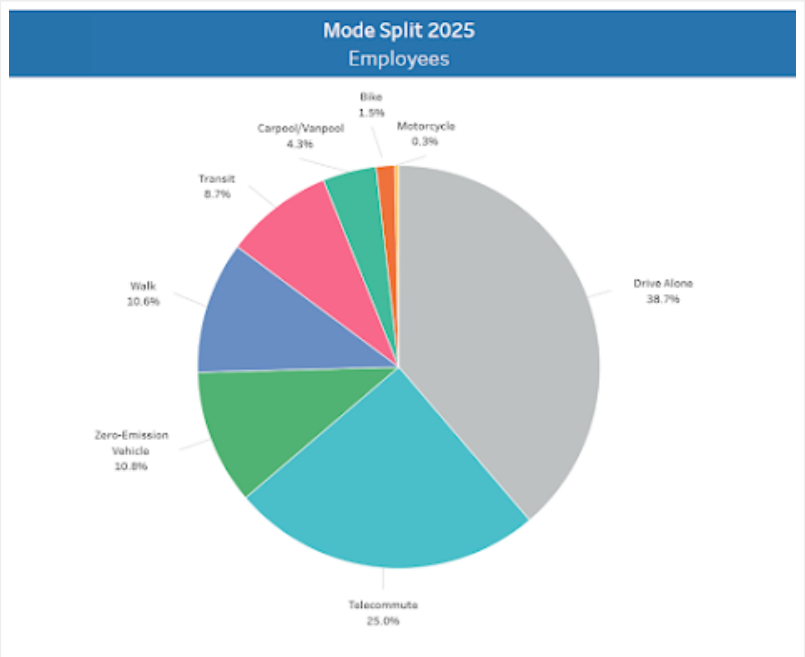
Full story at https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2026/4/22/visiting-faculty-viewpoint-diversity/.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, diversity, Harvard

Friday, May 8, 2026

Don't tell the governor



Governor Newsom (also *ex officio* Regent Newsom) hasn't been keen on state employees telecommuting. It's been a sore point between him and state unions. According to the latest annual UCLA State of the Commute report on commuting, one fourth of university employees are telecommuting.*

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*https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9146eed6fc5c4b7a9329dedce6200926.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: governor, transportation, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 336

From the Chronicle of Higher Education: ...*A 20-year-old freshman at the University of Notre Dame emailed the undergraduate population with an enticing pitch. "I built an AI agent that connects to your Canvas and sees everything," Caden Chuang wrote in the email... "It figures out exactly where you're falling short and gives you the precise roadmap to get an A with the least amount of work possible." Within an hour, the university deleted the email from inboxes, Chuang said, and temporarily disabled his account. But more than 1,000 students had signed up.*

Then Chuang posted a video on Instagram on Thursday saying he "might have just been expelled." He said the university disabled his accounts and is investigating him for "creating an AI cheating tool" — a characterization he disputes. The episode marks at least the third time over the past year that an AI tool built by current or recent students has forced colleges into a scramble. Examples include the viral rollout of an "Einstein" agent that could autonomously complete coursework and a Columbia University student's public clash with administrators over their discrete AI software to help students pass technical interviews. Universities are confronting the fast-moving reality that students are building systems they're not prepared for.

But unlike Einstein and the interview app, Chuang says his tool, Kerra, is not a cheat code — it's a productivity tool. The software reads assignments, grades, and uploaded materials from the learning-management system Canvas, then generates study guides, detailed notes, and even assignment drafts. It also tracks deadlines and sends reminder texts designed to keep students on track. Signing up for Kerra is free, but certain tasks and features — such as exporting a study guide or using the tool's more aggressive iMessage accountability reminders — prompt users to pay a fee ranging from $9 to $20 a month.

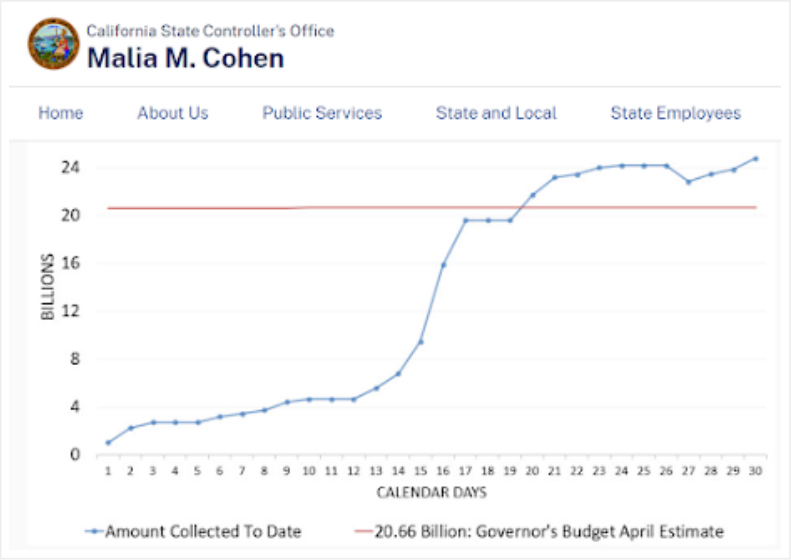
Chuang's broader argument for Kerra is blunt, and, to some instructors, provocative. Spending a lot of time in class is "not as valuable as it used to be in the past," he told The Chronicle. Instead, the time students spend outside class doing extracurricular activities and networking with potential employers is more important to their future. Kerra lets students "spend more time taking advantage of all the opportunities at their university," Chuang said...

Full story at https://www.chronicle.com/article/another-undergrad-is-trying-to-disrupt-college-with-ai-he-says-his-version-isnt-cheating.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Columbia, Notre Dame

Already Ahead - Part 2



We noted in a prior posting that income tax revenue for the state had exceeded the governor's January budget estimate even before the full month of April had passed.* We now have the full month - see above - which shows the complete excess. We should get a full cash statement on all tax and other revenue for the state in the next few days.

Note that the governor's May Revise budget proposal is scheduled for May 14.

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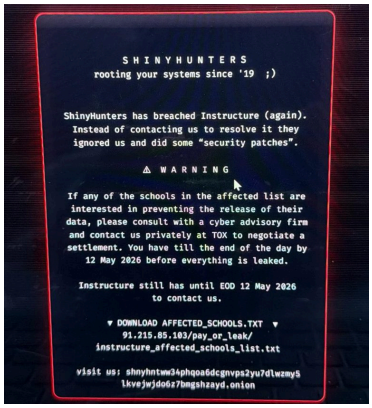
*https://uclafacultyassociation.blogspot.com/2026/04/already-ahead.html.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: controller, governor, State Budget

The Hacking


SHINYHUNTERS
rooting your systems since '19 ;)
ShinyHunters has breached Instructure (again).
Instead of contacting us to resolve it they
ignored us and did some "security patches".
⚠ WARNING
If any of the schools in the affected list are
interested in preventing the release of their
data, please consult with a cyber advisory firm
and contact us privately at TOX to negotiate a
settlement. You have till the end of the day by
12 May 2026 before everything is leaked.
Instructure still has until EOD 12 May 2026
to contact us.
▼ DOWNLOAD AFFECTED_SCHOOLS.TXT ▼
91.215.85.103/pay_or_leak/
instructure_affected_schools_list.txt
visit us: shnyhntww34phqoa6dcgnvps2yu7dlwzmy5
lkvejwjdo6z7bmgshzayd.onion

The Bruin Learn system that supports instruction at UCLA is part of the Canvas system - and Canvas has been hacked by a group called "ShinyHunters." Information can be found at:

https://databreaches.net/2026/05/07/developing-shinyhunters-hacks-instructure-again-canvas-down/.

From an email to a particular UCLA school:

I wanted to give some guidance around the Bruin Learn outage announced below. As you are likely aware, the outage appears to be connected to a disruption to one of UCLA's technology vendors, which is used by hundreds of universities. Many schools are experiencing outages. However, our students and you likely care most about when service will be restored, and how you can best minimize the effect of the outage while it is ongoing.

On the first question, we simply don't know when service might be restored. As central campus updates us on the situation, we will let you know what we learn. Given this uncertainty, we advise that you plan on alternative arrangements for activities that you planned to carry out on Bruin Learn.

- *To that point, we recommend you to be flexible in your approach. Some simple approaches that might help:*
- *We recommend you not try to recreate Bruin Learn/Canvas on another site, and keep things simple. This may mean making adjustments to certain aspects of your class.*
- *You can email the class directly on MyUCLA, much like a Bruin Learn announcement. You can also use MyUCLA to download a spreadsheet that includes the email addresses of all students in your class.*

Students will appreciate frequent communication via email reiterating any adjustments you make to the class because of the outage. Please feel free to make your reminders repetitive, so that students are more likely to see them. You may want to let your students know your communications may be repetitive, but that you want to make sure everyone understands how the class will adapt to the outage...

We know this is disruptive, and the University is working very hard to restore access as soon as possible. Thank you for your flexibility as campus works through this challenge. We'll keep you posted as we hear more...

Yours truly remembers the days when we used blackboards and chalk, and students got their readings from a thing called "the library." No one could hack into them.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: email fraud, UCLA

Thursday, May 7, 2026

Assault at Royce and Young Research Library

From an email this morning:

The UCLA Police Department received a report of an aggravated assault, that occurred at Royce Hall on 05-06-2026 06:40 PM. Victim was seated on a bench outside of Royce Hall when an unknown suspect struck the victim with a closed fist, causing injuries that required medical attention. A second assault involving the same suspect was reported outside of Young Research Library, where the victim sustained minor injuries. UCLA PD has identified the suspect. The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, approximately 40 years old, about 5'8" tall, and bald. He was wearing a black blazer jacket, black pants, and black shoes, and was carrying a green bag.

UCLA PD is investigating this crime. If you have information that might assist in the investigation, please contact the UCLA Police Department at 310-825-1491.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 12:26 PM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Legal Apology

From MSN: *A free speech organization accused UCLA School of Law of "double standards" [last] Wednesday after an assistant dean told Federalist Society students that they could be punished for publicly identifying protesters who disrupted their event earlier this month. [Last] Thursday, a UCLA Law spokesperson told The College Fix that the university apologized to the students.*

"UCLA does not discipline students for speech that is protected under the First Amendment," the unnamed spokesperson said in an emailed statement. "The initial communication was not intended to suggest otherwise, and we

have apologized for any lack of clarity. UCLA School of Law also encourages students to engage one another with respect and care."

The situation has to do with a group of protesters who were caught on video earlier this month hurling insults and making disruptive noises during a Federalist Society event with U.S. Department of Homeland Security General Counsel James Percival. In an email... Bayrex Martí, assistant dean for student affairs, told leaders of the UCLA Federalist Society chapter that they could be punished if they name the protesters in the video, according to FIRE.

"First of all, identifying the names of people who attend a public event is 100% protected speech. You don't have a right to anonymity in public," FIRE Executive Vice President Nico Perrino wrote Wednesday on X. "Second, enough with these double standards. Threatening only one side with punishment for engaging in the same (protected) expression as the other side is viewpoint discrimination," Perrino wrote...

Full story at https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/free-speech-group-slams-ucla-for-double-standards-after-hecklers-disrupt-event/ar-AA227Ab5.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments:

Labels: academic freedom, UCLA

Straws in the Wind - Part 335

From The Dartmouth: *At the end of April 2025, four federal grants funding Dartmouth research in the anthropology and health-related fields were canceled by the National Institutes of Health. While the College appealed all four cancellation decisions, only one grant has been reinstated. The College "continues to monitor the status" of the three remaining cancelled grants, according to an email statement from College spokesperson Morgan Kelly.*

Two of the terminated grants were Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award F31 Individual Predoctoral Fellowships, which fund students from underrepresented groups in health-related studies. A third was a $2 million grant from the Initiative for Maximising Student Development program, which provides stipend support, mentoring and other community programming for Ph.D. students engaged in behavioral, biomedical and clinical research. The fourth was a $141,000 grant from Increasing Diversity in Evolutionary Anthropological Sciences that funds mentorship and training to reduce the underrepresentation of minority scholars in biological anthropology.

The other cancelled grants are "receiving or seeking," support from "other funds," Kelly wrote...

Full story at https://www.thedartmouth.com/article/2026/04/ehrlich-a-year-after-the-cancellation-of-federal-grants-at-dartmouth-one-has-been-reinstated.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments:

Labels: Dartmouth, diversity, politics

Insecure - Part 2

Yesterday, we noted in the Bruin an article about UCLA sororities hiring private security guards to prevent harassment that was apparently occurring in local streets.

As you can see in the accompanying image, the California Post (a derivative of the New York Post) was a bid more lurid in describing the situation.*

CALIFORNIA POST
LOG IN
Edition CA NY
PAGE SIX | SPORTS | CALIFORNIA NEWS | OPINIC
ALPHA PSI-CHO
UCLA sorority girls living in terror as deranged stalker forces them to take drastic action

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*https://nypost.com/2026/05/05/us-news/private-security-guards-hired-to-patrol-uclas-sorority-row/.

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UCLA's sorority row on edge as maniac known as 'The Screamer' terrorizes sisters
By Nina Joudeh May 5, 2026 | 12:11pm
They describe men yelling vulgarities, making sexual remarks and approaching them on sidewalks near the houses, including one man they dubbed "the screamer."

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:10 AM No comments:

Labels: UCLA

Investigation

From the LA Times: *UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine intentionally used race for the last three years to discriminate against applicants during admissions — in particular white and Asian American candidates — according to U.S. Department of Justice allegations released Wednesday. In a seven-page letter, the agency's Civil Rights Division wrote that the medical school "continues to intentionally discriminate against applicants based on their race after the Supreme Court's decision in Harvard by granting and denying admission on the basis of race." That 2023 decision — Students for Fair Admissions vs. Harvard — barred race-conscious admissions at colleges and universities but allowed schools to consider how race affected students if they wrote about their experiences in essays.*

A UCLA medical school spokesperson said that admissions are "based on merit" and that the school follows the law...

Full story at https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2026-05-06/ucla-medical-school-illegal-use-race-admissions-doj-investigation-findings.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:05 AM No comments:

Labels: diversity, health care, politics, UCLA

Wednesday, May 6, 2026

Security Planning for 2028 Olympics

Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus and Community Safety Steve Lurie spoke to a systemwide group of emeriti and retirees on April 29th concerning security planning for the 2028 Olympics.